



THE TALLEST OBELISK.

Quarried in Wisconsin to Be Given to the World's Fair.

The fact recently announced that the largest monolith in the world had been successfully quarried in Wisconsin excited much attention and led to many inquiries as to the particulars of a feat that surpassed those of the ancient Egyptian obelisks. It is a thing that those old obelisk specialists had armies at their command. Here is the history of the stone.

In the month of May of last year explorations were begun at the Exsoler quarry, Wilson Island, to find a suitable stone, and several locations were uncovered by removing the earth and top rock where the stone was found perfect in color and texture, with every prospect of success, until about seventy feet was reached, when a small crevice or crack appeared which prevented getting the length required. Other points were tried without success and then the granite quarries were tried. Five steam chisellers and thirty men were set to work on August 1. Work was pushed rapidly and a perfect shaft was secured 115 feet long. In October and the first part of November the stone on each side and end of the monolith was cut away, and by the middle of November nothing remained to be done except to loosen the bottom of the stone from its bed.

For this work wedges had been entered, and all that remained to be done was to drive them upon a given signal until the rock was wholly separated. Fifty men were carefully selected for this work, and with mauls raised, on November 18, they waited for the signal. The word was given at eleven o'clock by President Prentiss, of the Prentiss Bros. company, who donates the stone to the state of Wisconsin. At the sound of his voice the mauls descended. As each man struck a wedge he stepped forward, from the base to the apex, striking a wedge at each step. The mauls descended as though wielded by one man. The first crack appeared at the base. It gradually widened and spread as the blows continued to descend until at last the entire shaft separated from the ledge. There was a slight tremble at the moment of complete parting, and there lay the great monolith.

The measurement was completed and the stone was found to be 115 feet long, 30 1/2 at the base and 4 1/2 at the top. This length exceeds by 10 feet the tallest obelisk produced by the Egyptians. The great shaft will be trimmed and placed on a barge which will be towed by a tug to Chicago. Four more monoliths, each 35 feet tall, will be excavated and sent to Chicago to be placed in proper position about the monster monolith.

WORLD'S FAIR TALK.

The bureau of admissions has decided to place the head of Columbus on the exposition tickets. The design for this head will be an ideal one.

Chief Walker Fearn has been advised officially that Infanta Isabella will not visit the exposition because the state authorities advised against such a journey.

The Brazilians have recently opened a preparatory exhibition at Rio Janeiro of the articles intended for the world's fair. The display is an unusual one and it will be shipped in its entirety to Chicago.

Chief Smith, of the department of transportation exhibits, has received a letter from some New Yorkers who want to travel to Chicago next summer by means of old-fashioned stages and canal boats.

Mrs. Julia Marlowe has been selected by Mrs. May Wright Sewall to deliver an address on "Woman's Influence on the Stage" during the national women's congress of the world's fair at Chicago May 13.

John Dymond, president of the Louisiana executive board, writes Chief Burham, saying that a large collection of forest woods has been secured and a fine exhibit will be made in the forestry building.

The chief of the secret service bureau will detail three reliable men for duty at the art building in Chicago, connected with the World's Columbian exposition, who will report to Chief Ives, of the department of fine arts.

The Greek letter societies have been allotted space in the building for manufacture and liberal arts for a college fraternity exhibit. It comprises 75 feet along the main aisle and 10 feet to the windows in the northwest corner of the gallery overlooking the wooded island.

Advices from the Lone Star state indicate that the legislature will do nothing toward the creation of the \$25,000 building designed for Jackson park. Citizens have subscribed \$5,000 and the indications are that they will be obliged to furnish the remainder or have their state drop out altogether.

TWENTY YEARS THE LEADER!!!

Coughs, Croup, Whooping Cough, Sore Throat, Hoarseness, and all other ailments removed quickly by

BENSON'S

which is the only PLEURAL PLASTER that contains potent and effective ingredients. YET ABSOLUTELY SAFE and POSITIVE in its action.

Benson's Plaster Prevents Pneumonia. It does not cure chronic ailments in a minute, nor does it create an electric battery or current in the system, nor will it cure any of the ailments of the system.

CAUTION—Do not be deceived by cheap imitations. Benson's Plaster is made by Benson's Plaster Co., Chicago, Ill.

Get the Benson's Plaster at all drug stores.

SOLDIERS' RECORDS.

The Greatest Work of Tabulation Ever Attempted.

A Difficult Problem Solved—At a Minute's Notice the Career of Any Man in the Union Army Can Be Ascertained—Saves Delay and Expense.

[COPYRIGHT, 1893.]

The most remarkable feat of systemization ever brought to success—perhaps the best illustration of the power of method in human affairs—is now near completion in one of the departments of the general government. An idea which will save eight hundred thousand dollars a year to the nation, which has preserved vast and invaluable records and has made minutes of the administration of an important branch of the national affairs, is certainly a matter of every-body's concern.

The preservation of the records referred to, if nothing else had been accomplished, is so important that it may be called an absolutely indispensable part of the records of the individual histories of the union forces in the war of the rebellion. They were crumbling to



COL. F. C. AINSWORTH.

dust; if lost they could never be replaced, and not a day too soon was the solution of the problem of their preservation reached.

At the records of the volunteer armies are filed in the record and pension office of the war department. This office should not be confounded with the pension office of the interior department, with which it has no connection. The adjudication of pension claims is the work of the pension office. With that class of work the record and pension office of the war department has nothing to do further than to furnish to the commissioner of pensions the histories of soldiers in order that their claims may be adjudicated.

In one of the rooms of the record and pension office I saw a small basket fastened against the wall. It contained some dozens of decaying bits of paper. Col. Ainsworth, chief of the office, lifted them gently. They ran through his fingers and fell like dead leaves into the basket.

"These are fragments of soldiers' records," said he. "Every one of them bears a soldier's name or some essential part of a soldier's story. They will be taken from this basket, and with infinite care put together like the pieces of a child's puzzle. It can be done; it has been done in many cases which looked as hopeless as this. Then the facts which they disclose will be preserved in clearer form and forever."

The wonderful system which makes this possible may be appreciated when one learns that there are about thirty million separate entries relating to over two million persons in the original war records; that two or three or perhaps a hundred of them may refer to a single soldier; that these were in the first place scattered as if for the purpose of concealing them, and that to-day it is as easy to find all of them which bear upon a single case as it is to turn to a man's name in the directory.

This amazing triumph of method has been accomplished without the expenditure of an extra dollar by the government or the addition of a man to the clerical force. It is simply an illustration of the value of an idea, which was evolved independently and developed into a great system by the present chief of the record and pension office long before any other successful application of either the idea or the system is known to have been made. After Col. Ainsworth had demonstrated that the method devised by him was not only perfectly adapted to the reproduction and preservation of old records, but



IN OLD FORD'S THEATER.

(An elaborate eye shade.)

that it was equally well suited to many other purposes, including that of recording the current correspondence of large offices. Several claimants for the honor of having first devised a similar system have been heard from, but investigation has shown that every one of these claims is without foundation and that the first successful application of the new method was made by Col. Ainsworth, who devised it.

The story of the real work begins in 1886. Notwithstanding the fact that congress had greatly increased the clerical force of the war department for the purpose of enabling it to keep pace with the growing demand for record evidence in pension cases the work was always falling further behind. This did not show any lack of diligence; it was the difficulty of the task.

A solution of the whole problem was found when it was determined to substitute for the slip card of imperishable paper and to put upon it not only all the information itself, so that the card should bear a complete and literal transcript of everything shown by the original record in connection with a certain entry. This is not merely an index to a certain record, it is a reproduction of the record itself and is very properly called an "index record card."

Its value can be told in a word. Under the old method the two hundred and eighty clerks engaged in making reports from the hospital records for use in the settlement of pension and other claims could make no more than one hundred and fifty such reports a

day on the average. From the index record cards forty men can answer one thousand calls a day. Formerly the answers were far from complete. Often the most important fact was missing—the fact that would have given a deserving person a pension or denied one to an impostor. Now every matter of record is shown in every case. Then from three to six months was the time required for any call to be answered. Now it is usually done on the day received.

When the hospital records had been nearly all transferred to the cards, the record and pension division of the surgeon general's office—in which the work had been done—was consolidated with several divisions of the adjutant general's office, where the military records were filed, and Col. Ainsworth was placed in charge of the whole. He was, and still is, directly under the secretary of war and responsible to him alone. At that time the work of the medical section was up to date. But in the other divisions the enormous number of cases on hand seemed to block all efforts to bring order out of chaos. There were forty thousand cases of all kinds awaiting action. Two-thirds of them were calls from the commissioner of pensions. The remainder were from the second auditor for information relating to claims for back pay and bounty or other matters necessitating a search of the mutilated and decaying rolls or other military records.

Then the vast military records were treated in the same way. The present record and pension office was created by executive order in 1889. It was thus at first dependent upon executive authority for its continuance, but on May 9, 1892, it was given permanent establishment as an independent bureau by an act of congress, and Col. Ainsworth was appointed and commissioned as its chief. The military records were carried by states. At present there remains some work to be done upon Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. It will soon be finished. The carding is being done in the old Ford theater, where Lincoln was shot. About five hundred clerks are there employed, and a casual glance



FRAGMENTS OF THE RECORDS.

at their work shows how necessary is a perfect system to its successful prosecution.

The voluminousness of the documentary matter is hard to realize. The military records include four hundred thousand muster rolls and about one hundred and fifty thousand bound volumes. The copying, as has been said, is done upon cards. They are printed in blank and then the blanks are filled from the records. The cards are sorted by states, then by regiments and finally alphabetically, so that a score or more referring to one man eventually come together from widely different sources and take their places under his name. The system of indexing and sorting is marvelous; the result is beautiful in its simplicity. At the "Tenth street branch," of Ford's theater is called, Oliphant C. Brown is in charge. With the permission of Col. Ainsworth I inspected the branch under Mr. Brown's guidance. The building is little divided by partitions. The three great floors are covered with rows of desks, where clerks are busy with muster rolls or cards which are being compared. A glance over the desks shows the great volume of papers through which the clerks must make their way to reach the necessary facts. The comparison and verification are attended to with the utmost care, so that any divergence from the original records is impossible. Even palpable errors are preserved with explanatory notes. If a man's name has been spelled wrong anywhere in the four hundred thousand muster rolls and the hundred and fifty thousand volumes, a glance at his card will show where the error occurred. If an entry in the original is, from age or peculiarity of penmanship, open to several constructions, the original will be found reproduced upon the card. This care is absolutely necessary, and the discretion which suggested it proves its utility every day. And yet, when all is done, the new records are not bulky. They are models of condensation.

The results are on file in the war department. There one may see rows full of ordinary file cases indexed upon the outside, to show the regiment, company or alphabetical division. Here, for instance, is the room devoted to New York. It contains, roughly speaking, one-seventh of the union army. There were four hundred and eighty thousand enlistments from that state. The records are kept in six thousand, one hundred and ninety-two boxes, of which twenty-four refer to the Mexican war and the others to the rebellion. "Make a test of the system," said Col. Ainsworth, as we passed through the room. "Call for some soldier whom you know."

"Wait till we come to Maine," said I. "That is my state."

We passed through several rooms similar to that devoted to New York. There was something deeply impressive in the orderly arrangement of the military titles standing forth sharply upon the white placards. It was like walking through a vast camp. The great host whose individual history surrounded me seemed to be on guard. The valor of the nation was gathered about me. On every hand were names associated with heroism upon the field. This regiment was at Gettysburg; that shed its blood in the Wilderness. The solemnity of death was upon those white cards that stood in rows as of tents, but no observer with a trace of sentiment could fail to realize that the dead, no less than those that still survive, are in this very day defenders of the nation by the record of their courage and devotion.

"Here is Maine," said Col. Ainsworth. "Who shall it be?"

"Col. Charles W. Tilden, of the Sixteenth."

Mr. H.—Well, sorry you are going. But there are times when one has to leave everything behind.

Mr. H.—Luckily, I should have to think of you taking that cornet to Heaven—Life.

Social Economy.

Mrs. Smith—In writing to ask the Browns to meet the Joneses here at dinner and to the Joneses to meet the Browns. We were both, you know.

Mr. Smith—But I've heard they've just quarreled and don't speak!

Mrs. Smith—I know; they'll refuse and we won't give a dinner party at

teenth," said I; and in less than a minute the whole gallant record of this soldier was before me, the story which I had heard as a boy in the little town whence he had gone to the war. There was the charge at Gettysburg from which he did not return; the imprisonment in Libby's notorious den; the escape, recapture and second escape; the record of what he had suffered in the rebels' hands, and his return to the ranks of the bluecoats. The minor incidents which I had remembered and which had caused me to take his case as a test were all there in black and white. Then I tried others in humbler ranks and found the same accuracy in every instance. I spent less than half an hour in the room. The information which I received would have taken months to secure under the old system. Much of it, indeed, would never have been known.

Of course great care is taken to preserve these records from improper use. No person with a doubtful errand can learn anything which he might use for malicious purposes to annoy the living or discredit the memory of the dead.

There are endless stores of queer acts in these boxes. I was interested in the Indian troops. They were, I am told, of little use to the service—not enough, I judge, to pay for the keeping of records which include such names as Yank-hee-to-mah-ner and Wa-tah-to-ho-ky. Some of them, however, had names which were more to the point. One box, I remember, contained the records of those who alphabetically fell between "Liar" and "Mixed Water." What the water was mixed with anybody familiar with the Indian character can guess.

I did not expect to come across the name of Jefferson Davis in this collection, but a little reflection might have prepared me for it. He served in the First Mississippi infantry in the Mexican war, and there was an interesting account—though told with military brevity—of the operations near Monterey, in which he took part in September, 1843.

Now and then during my stay amid the records I saw men with small baskets passing rapidly through the rooms.

"They are the mail carriers," said Col. Ainsworth. "I have introduced a system of communication between the various parts of the office which obviates one of the worst forms of delay existing under the old system. In such cases as this, where papers pass through many hands, much time is ordinarily lost by the accumulation of matter upon the various desks. A clerk would finish his work upon a great many papers and then transfer them to the next man, who might have been waiting in idleness for some hours. That is impossible now. I have messengers who start from the main office at five minute intervals and make the rounds. Each clerk has a basket of cards bearing the numbers by which various departments are designated. When he has finished work on a paper he fastens to it a card bearing the number of the department to which it should go next. The carrier takes it from a box provided for it and delivers it to the clerk. When it is to be returned the clerk simply turns the card over, and there upon its back is the number of the department from which it came. The next carrier going the opposite way takes it back. By this system the average delay is not more than two and a half minutes. It used to be twenty-four hours."

It would pay any business man to study the methods of this office. For instance, in all the vast operations conducted there, involving endless correspondence and the handling of millions of letters, there is only one book. That is the "Tenthstreet branch," and it is used for keeping track of the card work. It shows where any card is at the given time. When the carding is completed the book will be destroyed. Every other matter in all that vast establishment is kept track of by the index card system. The method of dealing with correspondence is a marvel. Every letter received or written is transferred to a card which is extended by means of pasters, and the result is that instead of hunting through the indexes of letter books the entire correspondence on any subject can be found in a minute all together, just like a soldier's record. There are a hundred other details of the system equally perfect in their adaptation to the conditions, but the limits of space forbid a reference to them. Taken as it stands, the office, I believe, justifies the statement I made at the beginning—that it embodies the most remarkable triumph of systemization in the world. It has been done, as I have said, practically without cost to the government, and the reduction of the clerical force which it will permit will save \$500,000 a year in salaries. And the records of the nation's defenders have been preserved.

It has now proposed to reduce the records of the revolution and the war of 1812 to the same system, and doubtless this will be done. Then this government will have the most complete military history that exists anywhere.

His Preference.

Mamma—Whom do love best in the world, Harold, your father or me?

Harold—My new kitten—Harper's Young People.

HORRIBLE TO CONTEMPLATE.

Mr. H.—Well, sorry you are going. But there are times when one has to leave everything behind.

Mr. H.—Luckily, I should have to think of you taking that cornet to Heaven—Life.

Social Economy.

Mrs. Smith—In writing to ask the Browns to meet the Joneses here at dinner and to the Joneses to meet the Browns. We were both, you know.

Mr. Smith—But I've heard they've just quarreled and don't speak!

Mrs. Smith—I know; they'll refuse and we won't give a dinner party at

Why the Cook Left.

You ask me why I left there? It really made me grieve: But master and missus quarreled so much That I just had to leave them. Their language was so dreadful, And awfully they looked.

You ask me what they quarreled about? 'Twas the way the minks was cooked.

—Judge.

Wants for the Irish Village.

The Irish Industries association, which is building a Bungalows castle and an Irish village at the park, has recently received substantial assistance for the project, and now feels confident that the charity will be of great assistance to the cottage industries of Ireland. At a recent meeting in Dublin, at which the lord mayor presided, it was announced that the donations to the fund now amounted to \$14,000 and that loans aggregating \$25,000 had been made to the fund. Andrew Carnegie appears among the donors. He gave \$1,000. Mrs. William E. Gladstone gave \$250. The donations made in the United States for this enterprise amount to \$7,500.

Errors of Youth.

Mr. H.—Well, sorry you are going. But there are times when one has to leave everything behind.

Mr. H.—Luckily, I should have to think of you taking that cornet to Heaven—Life.

Social Economy.

Mrs. Smith—In writing to ask the Browns to meet the Joneses here at dinner and to the Joneses to meet the Browns. We were both, you know.

Mr. Smith—But I've heard they've just quarreled and don't speak!

Mrs. Smith—I know; they'll refuse and we won't give a dinner party at

Why the Cook Left.

You ask me why I left there? It really made me grieve: But master and missus quarreled so much That I just had to leave them. Their language was so dreadful, And awfully they looked.

You ask me what they quarreled about? 'Twas the way the minks was cooked.

—Judge.

Wants for the Irish Village.

The Irish Industries association, which is building a Bungalows castle and an Irish village at the park, has recently received substantial assistance for the project, and now feels confident that the charity will be of great assistance to the cottage industries of Ireland. At a recent meeting in Dublin, at which the lord mayor presided, it was announced that the donations to the fund now amounted to \$14,000 and that loans aggregating \$25,000 had been made to the fund. Andrew Carnegie appears among the donors. He gave \$1,000. Mrs. William E. Gladstone gave \$250. The donations made in the United States for this enterprise amount to \$7,500.

Errors of Youth.

Mr. H.—Well, sorry you are going. But there are times when one has to leave everything behind.

Mr. H.—Luckily, I should have to think of you taking that cornet to Heaven—Life.

Social Economy.

Mrs. Smith—In writing to ask the Browns to meet the Joneses here at dinner and to the Joneses to meet the Browns. We were both, you know.

Mr. Smith—But I've heard they've just quarreled and don't speak!

Mrs. Smith—I know; they'll refuse and we won't give a dinner party at

Why the Cook Left.

You ask me why I left there? It really made me grieve: But master and missus quarreled so much That I just had to leave them. Their language was so dreadful, And awfully they looked.

You ask me what they quarreled about? 'Twas the way the minks was cooked.

—Judge.

Wants for the Irish Village.

The Irish Industries association, which is building a Bungalows castle and an Irish village at the park, has recently received substantial assistance for the project, and now feels confident that the charity will be of great assistance to the cottage industries of Ireland. At a recent meeting in Dublin, at which the lord mayor presided, it was announced that the donations to the fund now amounted to \$14,000 and that loans aggregating \$25,000 had been made to the fund. Andrew Carnegie appears among the donors. He gave \$1,000. Mrs. William E. Gladstone gave \$250. The donations made in the United States for this enterprise amount to \$7,500.

"MOTHER'S FRIEND."

is a scientifically prepared Liniment and harmless; every ingredient is of recognized value and in constant use by the medical profession. It shortens Labor, Lessens Pain, Diminishes the Danger to Mother and Child. Book "To Mothers" mailed free, containing valuable information and voluntary testimonials.

Sent by express, charges prepaid, on receipt of price, \$1.50 per bottle.

BRADFORD REGULATOR CO., ALBANY, GA.

Sold by all druggists.

CHASED BY A BOX CAR.

An Exciting Episode of Railroading in the Colorado Mountains.

"I was chased once by a box car," said an ex-railroad man, to a Kansas City Journal representative. "It was out in Colorado, the land of steep grades and sharp curves. We were sleeping down the mountains one day with a baggage car and two coaches. I was on the rear platform looking at the road when I descried a box car coming down the grade at a rate of speed that was appalling. If it struck us we were gone sure, for it would smash the entire train into kindling wood and pile it up in one of the gorges. Our only hope was to either outrun or wreck it. The engineer caught sight of it at the same instant that I did, and put the lever down among the tall pots.

"It appeared impossible that we could hold the track on the sharp curves while moving more than a mile a minute, but we did, and the box car continued to saw wood. If we could once get to the foot of the grade we would be safe, but that was soon seen to be impossible. Rapidly as we were going the box car continued to gain upon us, and now we could see that it was loaded with iron. Something must be done and that quickly. All the passengers had fled into the forward coach, and were hanging on to the seats. I signaled the engineer to shut off, set a brake hard on the rear coach, pulled the pin and the engineer opened the throttle.

We had not gone one hundred yards before the box car ran into the coach and sent spinning a quarter of a mile high. Both went plunging over into a chasm, and I hunted up a passenger who had a pocket flask, and reinforced my nerves."

CHANGEABLE ROSES.

One of the Floricultural Achievements of Oriental Peoples.

The Chinese, the Japanese and the Siamese know a thing or two about botany and floriculture that would be of much value to the German, English and American botanists. One of their achievements—the one on which they pride themselves above all others, unless it is the art of raising oaks in thin-blue—is the "changeable rose," a real rose, in everything except that it is white when in the shade and blood-red as soon as the sun strikes it. The words "as soon" in the last sentence above do not literally mean instantaneously, but one thing is sure, the transformation is rapid enough for the wondering eyes that are allowed the rare pleasure of beholding such a wonderful sight. After night, or when in a dark room, says the St. Louis Republic, this curiosity of the rose family is a pure, waxy white blossom. When transferred to open air the transformation immediately sets in, the time of the entire change of the flower from white to the most sanguine of all sanguine hues depending on the degree of sunlight and warmth. First the petals take on a kind of washed or faded blue color, which rapidly changes to a very faint blush of pink. The pink gradually deepens in hue until you find that your lily-white rose of an hour before is as red as the reddest peony that ever bloomed.

DIDN'T FOOL HIM.

Vanderbilt Was Something of a Judge.

A good story is told of one of the Vanderbilts, says an exchange. While abroad recently he was visited by a rich Berlin jeweler, who, without waiting the usual formalities incident to gaining an audience, marched in on Mr. Vanderbilt unannounced. The intruder was an elderly man with an intelligent face and attired in faultless evening dress, the fashion prescribed by European etiquette for visits to potentates, ambassadors and other high dignitaries, irrespective of the hour or season. Mr. Vanderbilt was surprised, but not overbalanced, by the jeweler's evident attempt at continental complaisance. He listened to his tale of the "greatest ruby on earth," which the dealer was willing to dispose of at a sacrifice, with a courteous air, and then offered him one-tenth of the price demanded.

"I have five stones of exactly the same dimensions and coloring," said he, "and am willing to complete the half-dozen at a fair figure. You may send me your answer within two hours. Good morning."

The answer arrived eighteen minutes before the prescribed time had elapsed. It was in the affirmative.

Complete Manhood.

AND HOW TO ATTAIN IT.

A medical work that tells the names, describes the effects, points the remedy, scientifically the best values, actually the best results, and contains a full and complete course of instruction, including the names, descriptions, and values of the best medicines, and the names, descriptions, and values of the best remedies.

It will be sent free, under seal, with the following conditions:—

1. The name of the person to whom it is sent.

2. The name of the person to whom it is sent.

3. The name of the person to whom it is sent.

4. The name of the person to whom it is sent.

5. The name of the person to whom it is sent.

6. The name of the person to whom it is sent.

7. The name of the person to whom it is sent.

8. The name of the person to whom it is sent.

9. The name of the person to whom it is sent.

10. The name of the person to whom it is sent.

11. The name of the person to whom it is sent.

12. The name of the person to whom it is sent.

13. The name of the person to whom it is sent.

14. The name of the person to whom it is sent.

15. The name of the person to whom it is sent.

16. The name of the person to whom it is sent.

17. The name of the person to whom it is sent